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ONTARIO PARKS

Lake Nipigon Basin Signature Site

Preliminary Park Management Parent Plan

Ontario

ONTARIO PARKS

103-00560/

September 2002

Dear Sir/ Madam:

Ontario Parks is preparing a management plan for Lake Nipigon Provincial Park, Kabitotikwia River Provincial Nature Reserve, Livingstone Point Provincial Nature Reserve, Windigo Bay Provincial Nature Reserve, and West Bay Provincial Nature Reserve. As part of the planning process for these parks, I am pleased to present the Lake Nipigon Basin Signature Site Preliminary Park Management Parent Plan.

This preliminary plan contains the proposed policies that will direct the long-term management of these five parks. It presents the parks' classification, goal, objectives, and zoning, as well as the resource management, operations, development and implementation priorities. The public consultation that has occurred to date is also summarized.

I invite you to review and comment on this document. All comments will become part of the public record for the duration of the planning process. Comments will be made available for public review upon request, unless privacy is requested, pursuant to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. If you require that your name not be made public, please indicate this in your response. Remarks or requests for additional information should be submitted to the attention of:

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Your comments will be carefully considered during the preparation of the final Lake Nipigon Basin Signature Site Park Management Parent Plan.

Yours truly,

A. Ireland-Smith

Adair Ireland-Smith
Managing Director

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STATEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL BILL OF RIGHTS

In accordance with the provisions of *The Environmental Bill of Rights*, the Ministry of Natural Resources prepared a *Statement of Environmental Values*. It describes how the purposes of the *Environmental Bill of Rights* are to be considered whenever decisions are to be made which might significantly affect the environment. This includes decisions made as a result of the park management planning process.

The primary purpose of the *Environmental Bill of Rights* is "to protect, conserve and wherever possible, restore the integrity of the environment." From the Ministry's perspective, that broad statement of purpose translates into four objectives in its *Statement of Environmental Values*:

- To ensure the long-term health of the ecosystems by protecting and conserving our valuable soil, aquatic resources, forest and wildlife resources as well as their biological foundations;
- To ensure the continuing availability of natural resources for the long-term benefit of the people of Ontario;
- To protect natural heritage and biological features of provincial significance; and,
- To protect human life, the resource base and the physical property from the threats of forest fires, floods and erosion.

The Ministry's *Statement of Environmental Values* has been considered in the development of the Lake Nipigon Basin Signature Site Park Management Parent Plan for Lake Nipigon Provincial Park, Kabitotikwia River Provincial Nature Reserve, Livingstone Point Provincial Nature Reserve, West Bay Provincial Nature Reserve, and Windigo Bay Provincial Nature Reserve.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

A "parent plan" will be prepared to cover the management needs of the five provincial parks located on the shores Lake Nipigon because these parks are spatially, thematically and administratively related. The plan will include sufficient background information and analysis upon which to support planning decisions. The "parent plan" will have the force and effect of a full management plan. Where sufficient background inventory is not available to support significant decisions, or in situations where further study or analysis is required, decisions will be deferred to subsidiary plans, per the current practice. *As* stated in the *Environmental Bill of Rights* posting, "the goal of the Lake Nipigon Basin Project Team is to develop an *Ecological Land Use and Resource Management Strategy* for the Nipigon Basin that includes management plans for provincial parks and conservation reserves".

The parks covered by this parent plan are components of the Lake Nipigon Basin Signature Site. The planning process for the Lake Nipigon Basin Signature Site is a complex initiative. A single process is being applied to the signature site, which contains a number of areas with different land use designations. These areas all share common planning stages and timelines, thereby facilitating the concurrent planning process. The areas included within the Lake Nipigon Basin also share common geographic themes, recreation uses and resource issues with the various components of the signature site. The development of *Lake Nipigon Basin Ecological Land Use and Resource Management Strategy* will include the development of the management plans for parks including Black Sturgeon River Provincial Park, Lake Nipigon Provincial Park, Kabitotikwia River Provincial Nature Reserve, Livingstone Point Provincial Nature Reserve, Windigo Bay Provincial Nature Reserve, and West Bay Provincial Nature Reserve.

The parks addressed by this preliminary park management parent plan are limited to the regulated parks on the shores of Lake Nipigon and include:

- Lake Nipigon Provincial Park,
- Kabitotikwia River Provincial Nature Reserve,
- Livingstone Point Provincial Nature Reserve,
- Windigo Bay Provincial Nature Reserve, and
- West Bay Provincial Nature Reserve.

There are three remaining provincial parks within the Lake Nipigon Basin Signature Site that will not be included in the parent plan. The parks not covered by this parent plan are:

- Kopka River Provincial Park;
- Whitesand River Provincial Park; and
- Black Sturgeon River Provincial Park.

The original Kopka River Provincial Park and additions will not be planned in this process because the majority of the park is outside of the signature site boundary. The boundary of Kopka River Provincial Park will be amended through the *Lake Nipigon Basin Ecological Land Use and Resource Management Strategy* process. Direction for Kopka River Provincial Park and additions will be considered during future park management planning. An interim management statement was completed for Kopka River Provincial Park and addition in March, 2001. Whitesand River Provincial Park will not be included in this planning process due to outstanding Aboriginal concerns. Black Sturgeon River Provincial Park is the subject of a separate park management planning process as part of the larger basin planning initiative.

1.1 Lake Nipigon Provincial Park

Lake Nipigon Provincial Park is 918 hectares in size and is located along the southeast shores of Lake Nipigon, between Highway 11 and Lake Nipigon shore, approximately 100 kilometres southwest of Geraldton. The park was established in 1960 as Blacksand Provincial Park. In 1971, the area of the park was increased to include Lake Nipigon waters for a distance of 152 metres from shore (high water mark).

The latest park management plan for Lake Nipigon Provincial Park was approved in 1988 and subsequently amended in 1997.

As part of the "Land and Larger Landbase Framework Agreement", an area of 350 hectares was deregulated in August 1999 from Lake Nipigon Provincial Park and is being transferred to the federal government to form a new reserve for the Sand Point First Nation. Public input played an important role in making the final decision to remove land from Lake Nipigon Provincial Park. A major park management plan amendment was completed in spring 1997 as part of the deregulation. The balance of the park has retained its natural environment classification.

1.2 Kabitotikwia River Provincial Nature Reserve

Kabitotikwia River Provincial Provincial Nature Reserve is a nature reserve class park (1,965 hectares) located on the west side of the Lake Nipigon Basin, on the southwest shore of Gull Bay. The park contains a variety of wetlands, such as fluvial marsh, treed fen, and low shrub fen. The meandering Kabitotikwia River, which flows through the park, is part of an established canoe route in Nipigon District.

The park was regulated on January 15, 1985. An interim management statement for Kabitotikwia River Provincial Nature Reserve was revised in March, 1991.

1.3 Livingstone Point Provincial Nature Reserve

Livingstone Point is a nature reserve class park (1,800 hectares in size) located in the northeast quadrant of the Lake Nipigon Basin, south of Humboldt Bay. The major physiographic features include moderate to strong uplands with broken shallow sand till over bedrock, with lacustrine clay in valleys. The relief is variable with the highest and most rugged area in the central portion of the park, with large hills flanked by extensive talus boulder fields.

The park was regulated on February 16, 1985. An interim management statement for Livingstone Point Provincial Nature Reserve was revised in March, 1991.

1.4 Windigo Bay Provincial Nature Reserve

Windigo Bay is a nature reserve class park (8,378 hectares in size) located on the northwest shore of Lake Nipigon. It is bounded by the Whitesand River (on the west), the CN rail line (on the north), Kenna Creek (on the east) and Lake Nipigon (on the south). An area around Mount St. John, where the "Old Whitesand" community was located until approximately 1940, is not included in the park. Windigo Bay protects a number of significant natural features including wintering range and migration corridor for woodland caribou.

The park was identified for its geological values and regulated on May 27, 1989. The interim management statement for Windigo Bay Provincial Nature Reserve was revised in February, 1999.

This revision reflected an agreement between Ontario Parks and Whitesand First Nation for the construction of a restricted access road by the First Nation for access to their healing lodge immediately west of Mount St. John.

1.5 West Bay Provincial Nature Reserve

West Bay Provincial Nature Reserve is one of the smallest parks in the Lake Nipigon Basin with an area of 1,120 hectares. It is a nature reserve class park located on the west side of Lake Nipigon on the northern shore of West Bay.

There are some wetlands present and these are mostly graminoid or low shrub bogs developing in small kettle potholes. The dominant forest type is a deciduous shrub-rich mixedwood, and overall the West Bay Provincial Nature Reserve environment is pristine, due to the difficulty of accessing this remote area.

The park identified for its geological values was regulated on February 16, 1985. An interim management statement for West Bay Provincial Nature Reserve was revised in March, 1991.

The Lake Nipigon Basin Signature Site Preliminary Park Management Parent Plan has evolved from the public review of the background information and management options documents for the Lake Nipigon Basin Signature Site. The approved Lake Nipigon Basin Signature Site Park Management Parent Plan, which will result from this document, will set direction for the next 20 years by establishing policy and identifying appropriate development, consistent with the goals and objectives of Ontario Parks.

2.0 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ISSUES (NOT RANKED)

Park users, local residents, Spruce River/Armstrong Local Citizens Committee, First Nations, Canadian Outward Bound Wilderness School (COBWS), as well as other groups and individuals, identified the following concerns related to the management of Lake Nipigon Provincial Park, Kabitotikwia River Provincial Nature Reserve, Livingstone Point Provincial Nature Reserve, West Bay Provincial Nature Reserve, and Windigo Bay Provincial Nature Reserve.

2.1 Cla. sification of Lake Nipigon Provincial Park

Lake Nipigon Provincial Park is a natural environment class park. According to park policy, natural environment parks should be at least 2,000 hectares or more in size. The park boundary was modified in 1997 to accommodate the establishment of the Sand Point First Nation. Now the park is 918 hectares in size. Some suggested that classification be changed to nature reserve. This concern is addressed in section 3.0.

2.2 The use of motorized boats in Kabitotikwia River Provincial Nature Reserve

Kabitotikwia River Provincial Nature Reserve was established to protect the wetland complex south of Gull Bay along the Kabitotikwia River. Currently, anglers from Lake Nipigon use the area. There is evidence to suggest that the wakes from the anglers' motorized boats are negatively affecting the wildlife and vegetation in the park. Three options to deal with this issue were provided in the management options document. The first option proposed continuing the use of motorized boats in the park. The second option proposed restricting the use of motorized boats in the river, such that boats must travel through the park without creating a wake. The third option would prohibit motorized boats from operating in the park. The public supported a ban on motorized boats within the park. This concern is addressed in more detail in section 7.3.1 and 9.2.1.

2.3 Boundary expansions around Kopka River Provincial Park

Three potential expansions of Kopka River Provincial Park were proposed in the management options document. The first change recommended modifying the designation of Wabinosh Bay from conservation reserve into park. Second was including the Prisoner of War camp, which was included within an enhanced management area, and third was to include portions of the conservation reserve on the east

shore of Wabinosh Lake. Some people were opposed to increasing the size of parks and protected areas, thereby decreasing the amount of area within the enhanced management area. The park boundary was adjusted to include all three of these areas. This concern is addressed in section 1F of the Strategy, because the park is not being planned for in this parent planning process.

2.4 Road Restrictions in Windigo Bay Provincial Nature Reserve

Currently there is a healing lodge on the shores of Lake Nipigon, within the boundaries of Windigo Bay Provincial Nature Reserve. This spiritual centre and its associated cabins were built to provide emotional support and cultural development for the members of Whitesand First Nation. A road and trail were constructed to allow land access to this site. The project was subject to a field environmental planning process, which concluded in 1997. During that process, some concerns were raised that the road and trail would disrupt the woodland caribou migration between the Wabakimi/Armstrong area and Lake Nipigon. The road use Memorandum of Understanding signed in 1998 between Whitesand First Nation and MNR/Ontario Parks will remain to guide the agreed timing and use parameters of the road through the park. These concerns are addressed in sections 5.1, 5.1.2, 6.2, 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 7.3.4, 8.2 and 9.3.

REGIONAL SETTING

ONTARIO PARKS

Scale = 1:1,000,000

Ontario

Waterbody
River / Stream, Permanent
Primary Road
Hydro / Transmission Line
Railway
Pipeline
Settlement

First Nations
Existing Provincial Park
Recommended Provincial Park
Recommended Enhanced Management Area
Recommended Conservation Reserve
Lake Nipigon Basin Signature Site

Ontario Published September 2002
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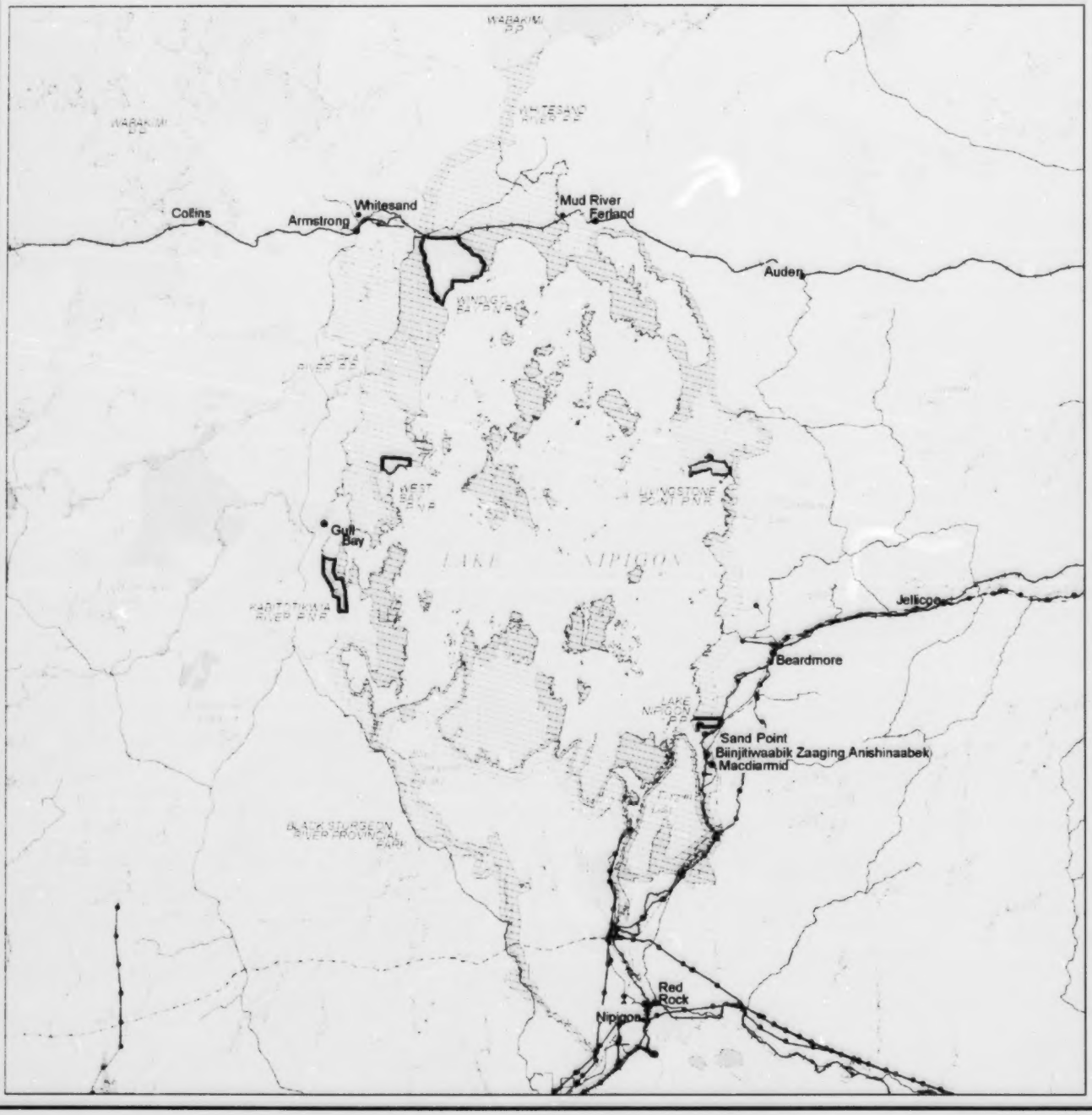
This map is illustrative only
Do not rely on it as being a precise indicator of routes, locations of features, nor as a guide to navigation
Projection: UTM Grid Zone 16
Datum: North American Datum 1983
Base Derived From: NRVIS (Natural Resource Values Information System)
Produced by: The Provincial Geomatics Service Centre



3.0 CLASSIFICATION

Provincial parks' policy has evolved over the last century, since the establishment of Algonquin Park in 1893. Today, provincial parks are governed by three key tools: the *Ontario Provincial Parks Act,* the *Ontario Provincial Parks Policy Statement*, and *Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Policies*. The latter was amended by the *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy (1999),* for provincial parks established as a result of the Lands for Life planning process.

The 1978 Cabinet-approved *Ontario Provincial Parks Policy Statement* established the goal and objectives for the park system, provided nine guiding principles, and identified the six classes of parks which comprise the current system (MNR 1992).

The *Ontario Provincial Parks Planning and Management Policies* (commonly known as the Blue Book) was first tabled in 1978 as a companion document to the *Ontario Provincial Parks Policy Statement*, described above. Updated in 1992 to reflect new Government direction, this policy contains a mixture of park philosophy, systems rationale, program targets, and management policies associated with each class of provincial park.

The provincial parks system incorporates six classes of parks, which are selected to meet representation targets in addition to the protection of special values. Lake Nipigon Provincial Park will retain its natural environment classification. Natural environment parks are selected to protect large, representative, and ecologically viable areas throughout Ontario. All other existing parks in the Lake Nipigon Basin Signature Site are nature reserve class parks. Nature reserve parks and zones are established to represent and protect Ontario's geological, ecological, and species diversity. The target is to represent each of the vegetative types found in Ontario's 14 ecoregions and all of Ontario's past geological environments (MNR 1992). They represent elements of geological, ecological, and species diversity commonly found within an ecological region, but not contained within provincial wilderness parks or national park equivalents. The target is to establish one natural environment park in each of the province's ecological districts. All parks are included within and representative of ecoregion 3W and ecodistrict 3W-3 (Hills 1964; Crins 2000).

4.0 GOAL

The five provincial parks on the shores of Lake Nipigon, contribute to the provincial parks system by protecting such values as plant communities, wildlife, and cultural resources providing recreational opportunities for heritage appreciation and tourism benefits. These five parks will contribute to resource protection in the region.

In accordance with each park's classification, the goal of the five parks within this parent plan is:

To protect the significant natural, cultural, and recreational features, while providing opportunities for visitors to participate in non-consumptive and compatible heritage appreciation, recreation, and tourism activities.

These parks contribute to the goal of the provincial park system, which is:

To provide a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities and to protect provincially significant natural, cultural and recreational environments in a system of Provincial Parks.

5.0 OBJECTIVES

Ontario's provincial park system has four objectives: protection, recreation, heritage appreciation, and tourism. Each park in the system contributes in some way to each of these objectives, depending on its resource base. Each park in the basin contributes to the achievement of all four objectives.

The four key objectives are:

- *Protection:* To protect provincially significant elements of the natural and cultural landscape of Ontario;
- *Recreation:* To provide outdoor recreation opportunities ranging from high-intensity

day-use to low-intensity wilderness experiences;
- *Heritage Appreciation:* To provide opportunities for exploration and appreciation of the outdoor natural and cultural heritage of Ontario; and
- *Tourism:* To provide Ontario's residents and out-of-province visitors with opportunities to discover and experience the distinctive regions of the province.

5.1 Protection Objective

To protect the provincially significant natural features in the parks including arctic-alpine disjunct plants and communities, bald eagles, woodland caribou populations and potential cultural sites.

These five parks contain a variety of natural and cultural resources that are provincially significant. These include:

- Arctic-alpine disjunct plants and communities (Livingstone Point);
- Woodland caribou wintering range (Livingstone Point, Windigo Bay);
- Adjacent American white pelican feeding and nesting habitat (Windigo Bay);
- Marsh complex (Kabitotikwia River);
- Provincially significant glacial Lake Kelvin shoreline features (West Bay and Windigo Bay);
- Provincially significant Onaman Interlobate Moraine earth feature (West Bay and Windigo Bay);
- Nesting bald eagles in the parks; and
- High potential for cultural sites (Kabitotikwia River, Livingstone Point and Windigo Bay).

These parks make significant contributions to the protection objective. Their connection and geographic relationship to the Lake Nipigon Basin Signature Site is also important. The Whitesand River Valley, as well as Windigo Bay Provincial Park, forms a valuable northern 'arm' or extension to the signature site. It provides a natural corridor for the movement of wildlife between the Lake Nipigon Basin, the Armstrong airport and Wabakimi Provincial Park. This is critical to connecting the populations of woodland caribou from Lake Nipigon to Wabakimi Provincial Park. Livingstone Point Provincial Nature Reserve also facilitates caribou migration to the east between Onaman Lake and Lake Nipigon.

The protection objective will be accomplished through appropriate park zoning, resource management policies (land use controls), research, monitoring, and a greater park ecosystem approach to park planning and management. The greater park ecosystem is defined as the area of influence surrounding the park from an ecological, social and economic perspective. It is the area where most of the cross-boundary impacts affecting the park and the surrounding area will occur, and vice versa.

5.1.1 Earth Science

West Bay Provincial Nature Reserve protects the glacial Lake Kelvin shoreline sequence, Onaman Interlobate Moraine, and associated features from the Timishkaming Interstadial theme (Kor 1978b).

The glacial Lake Kelvin shoreline is also evident as terraces within Windigo Bay Provincial Nature Reserve as well as the associated features from the Timiskaming Interstadial theme. The shoreline feature in the park is considered provincially significant (Kor 1978a).

Late Precambiran diabase sills and Jellicoe Spillway glacial deposits are protected within Lake Nipigon Provincial Park (Kor 1978a).

Earth science values are protected within nature reserve and natural environment zones through the policies that apply to these zones.

5.1.2 Life Science

The moderately to strongly broken shallow till over Proterzoic bedrock with lacustrine clay in valleys and associated vegetation in Livingstone Point Provincial Nature Reserve is representative of ecodistrict 3W-3. Included within the park are regionally rare arctic alpine disjunct plants.

The weakly broken lacustrine fine sand with some medium and coarse sand within Kabitotikwia River support associated vegetation communities of eocdistrict 3W-3. Also contained within the park are a diversity of wetland plants, nesting shorebirds, an unusually rectilinear river meander pattern and excellent marsh complex.

The weakly broken lacustrine clay plain and weakly broken lacustrine sand plain with sandy till within Windigo Bay Provincial Nature Reserve support associated vegetation communities of eocdistrict 3W-3. Of special note is the dune field vegetation within the park. The dune complexes, with open jack pine forest, scattered openings, and gently rolling topography provide woodland caribou wintering habitat. These dunes are regionally significant. The woodland caribou wintering range in Windigo Bay Provincial Nature Reserve is provincially significant (Harris and Foster 1997).

The large rich fen in the southeast portion of Windigo Bay Provincial Nature Reserve is uncommon in ecodistrict 3W-3, and is considered regionally significant.

The Windigo Bay shore provides feeding habitat and a buffer from human activity for offshore American white pelican nesting colonies, and is considered provincially significant (Harris and Foster 1997).

Life science values are protected within nature reserve and natural environment zones through the policies that apply to these zones.

5.2 Recreation Objective
To provide visitors to these five parks with opportunities for low-impact, non-consumptive recreation such as canoe and sea kayak tripping, fishing, swimming, and snowshoeing.

Because of their remoteness and inaccessibility, these parks provide opportunities for a limited number of low-impact, non-consumptive recreational uses compatible with the character of these parks. The extent of recreational activity in these areas is unknown.

The Kabitotikwia River is an established canoe route, part of the system of routes in Thunder Bay District. All of the park currently support opportunities for sport fishing, paddling on Lake Nipigon and nature appreciation.

The recreation objective will be achieved through appropriate development, access, nature reserve and natural environment zoning; the identification of management policies to prevent any compromise of significant values; market research and monitoring; and mitigating impacts of use.

5.3 Heritage Appreciation Objective
To provide unstructured, self-use opportunities for exploration and appreciation of the natural and cultural heritage within the parks, as well as the associated earth and life science features.

Although there is no documented evidence of known cultural occurrences there is a high potential for cultural sites within Kabitotikwia River, Livingstone Point and Windigo Bay Provincial Nature Reserves.

Unstructured self-use activities allow users to experience a dramatic landscape that illustrates a chronology of geological events and processes. Examples of activities include paddling, hiking, snowshoeing, and scenic and wildlife viewing. This objective will be achieved through the provision of accurate up-to-date information to park visitors regarding the natural, cultural and recreational resources of the parks.

Archaeological artifacts including Laurel pottery and Black Duck pottery shards have been found in Windigo Bay Provincial Nature Reserve. The area represents several period themes such as Fur Trade; Indigenous Settlers, Traders and Potters; and Northern Hunters and Fishers. Section 9.1 lists interpretive themes and techniques for the park.

5.4 Tourism Objective
To provide both Ontario residents and out-of-province visitors with opportunities to discover and to experience the unique natural and cultural features of these five parks, through the provision of high quality land and water-based experiences.

These five parks along Lake Nipigon provide limited day-use experiences for destination visitors to Lake Nipigon.

The tourism objective is achieved by providing outstanding paddling, hiking, fishing and nature appreciation experiences with links to the Lake Nipigon Basin Signature Site Tourism Strategy that will attract and retain visitors.

Further information about the Lake Nipigon Basin Signature Site Tourism Strategy can be found in section 7.1.3 and 8.2 of this plan, and section 3.2.4 of the *Ecological Land Use and Resource Management Strategy*.

6.0 PARK BOUNDARIES

No land disposition will occur within these nature reserves. Possible commercial land disposition may be considered in Lake Nipigon Provincial Park, subject to future planning.

6.1 West Bay Provincial Nature Reserve

During future park expansion programs, such as "Room to Grow", additional glacial moraine and shoreline features to the north and west of the park should be considered for inclusion.

6.2 Windigo Bay Provincial Nature Reserve

Windigo Bay Provincial Nature Reserve surrounds the site of "Old Whitesand". This site has historical, traditional and spiritual significance to Whitesand First Nation, who have continued to use it for these purposes. Members of Whitesand First Nation recently built a healing lodge in recognition of the site's significance. Appropriate tenure for the purpose of maintaining the healing lodge will be granted by MNR to Whitesand First Nation.

7.0 PARK ZONING

Classification of provincial parks and zoning are the key elements in determining the type and extent of management activities that may take place in a provincial park. Classification sets the direction for the types of zones that a park may contain and the general approach used in formulating management policies. Park zoning permits further refinement in the development of specific policies by setting limits on the range of management activities that can be considered—these activities are described in the *Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Policies—1992 update*. This approach is flexible enough that management policies can be tailored to reflect resource significance and management objectives for individual parks during the management planning. At the same time, it ensures general consistency in approach across the entire system (MNR 1992).

Zoning is a key part of a park management plan. Zones fulfill a variety of functions that include:

- Providing recognition of the features and attributes of a park;
- Delineating areas on the basis of their requirements to protect and buffer provincially significant representative features;
- Delineating areas on the basis of their ability to support various recreational activities; and
- Identifying uses that will protect significant features, yet allow opportunities for recreation and heritage education (please refer to Table 1 for more information).

There are six zones that could guide the resource management and development of Lake Nipigon Provincial Park. These designations include natural environment, development, access, wilderness, historical and nature reserve zones (Table 1 and Figure 2).

For the nature reserves in this plan, three zones could guide the resource management and development, namely access, historical and nature reserve zones (Table 1 and Figures 2 through 6).

Table 1. Zone Possibilities By Park Class

PARK CLASS	ZONE TYPE					
	NE	D	WI	NR	HI	A
NR				*	*	*
NE	*	*	*	*	*	*

Any change in zoning after the park management plan is released in the spring of 2003 would need to be reviewed through the management plan amendment process as outlined in the *Ontario Provincial Park Management Planning Manual*, 1994.

7.1 Access Zones

Access zones serve as staging areas, a means of both providing and regulating use in areas of the park geared towards low-impact recreation, such as "leave-no-trace" camping in natural environment parks. Provision may be made for limited self-use orientation. Limited facilities for research and park management may be present. Two access zones have been designated in Windigo Bay Provincial Nature

Reserve, and one access zone in Lake Nipigon Provincial Park.

7.1.1 Access Zone 1 (Windigo Bay Road)
Members of Whitesand First Nation will access their healing lodge site by wheeled, motorized vehicles in the summer, and snowmobiles in the winter, via the approved road corridor. Use of the road will respect time restrictions as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 1998 between Whitesand First Nation and MNR/Ontario Parks.

7.1.2 Access Zone 2 (Windigo Bay Trail)
This access zone links the road through Windigo Bay Provincial to the healing lodge and allows Whitesand First Nation members to travel by ATV, snowmobile and by foot. This zone is limited to the width of the trail, and extends from the end of the road to the park boundary to the south. No further trail development will be permitted, beyond the improvements needed to safely transport youth and elder between the road and the healing lodge.

The use restrictions articulated in 7.1.1 will also apply to this access zone.

Whitesand First Nation members accessing the healing lodge, commercial trappers accessing their traplines and employees of the Ministry of Natural Resources will be permitted to use mechanized travel within the park. All other uses of the park are discouraged.

7.1.3 Access Zone 3 (Thunderbird Lookout Trail)
This zone in Lake Nipigon Provincial Park is limited to the existing trail. The existing trail may be upgraded to a road, to allow for motorized carts and vehicles from the proposed Copper Thunderbird resort on Sand Point Indian Reserve to the Thunderbird Lookout that is located within the park.

7.2 Natural Environment Zones
Natural environment zones include natural landscapes, which permit the minimum level of development required to support low-intensity recreational activities. Development is limited to backcountry campsites, portages, necessary signs and minimal interpretive facilities.

7.2.1 Natural Environment Zone 1 (Lake Nipigon)

Most of Lake Nipigon Provincial Park will be zoned natural environment. This zone provides site protection for the representative landscape units in the park. It encompasses rugged, backcountry landscapes. This area may be utilized in the development of compatible high-quality, low intensity, non-consumptive, recreational opportunities.

Development in this zone will be limited to backcountry campsites, hiking and cross-country ski trails, and route signs where required.

7.3 Nature Reserve Zones
Nature reserve zones protect the provincially significant earth and / or life science features within a park, and may include a protected buffer area in which a minimum of development is permitted. That development is generally restricted to trails, necessary signs, interpretive facilities (where warranted) and temporary facilities for research and management.

7.3.1 Nature Reserve Zone 1 (Kabitotikwia River)
All of Kabitotikwia River Provincial Nature Reserve is zoned nature reserve to protect the wetland vegetation and shoreline nesting birds. This designation precludes motorized watercraft in the area. Anglers could paddle their boats through the park, then continue to use their motors once they were beyond the park boundary.

7.3.2 Nature Reserve Zone 2 (Livingstone Point)
This zone is established to provide protection to the migrating woodland caribou that use the park in spring and fall.

7.3.3 Nature Reserve Zone 3 (West Bay)
The nature reserve zone will provide protection of the Onaman Interlobate Moraine and glacial Lake Kelvin shoreline features.

7.3.4 Nature Reserve Zone 4 (Windigo Bay)
This purpose of this nature reserve zone is to maintain the roadless condition of the reserve, and protect the woodland caribou wintering area, migration corridor, ancient beach ridges of glacial Lake Kelvin, a dune complex and large fen in the park.

No new development, facilities or services will be permitted in the reserve, except for research

facilities and infrastructure as outlined in section 9.3.

8.0 RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP POLICIES

The management of the natural and cultural resources within Lake Nipigon Provincial Park, as well as Kabitotikwia River, Livingstone Point, West Bay, and Windigo Bay Provincial Nature Reserves will conform with the policies identified for nature reserve and natural environment parks in *Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Guidelines* (1992). Additional policy direction is provided in the following section.

8.1 Natural Resources

8.1.1 Landform

The management of the park's land base will be directed towards maintaining the natural landscape. Mineral exploration and mining are prohibited within the boundaries of these parks. Aggregate for park purposes will be acquired from commercial sources outside the park. Peat extraction is not permitted within the boundaries of these parks.

8.1.2 Water

Water quality for fisheries habitat and recreational purposes will be maintained.

Water quality, adjacent to access zones and where camping occurs, will be monitored where feasible, in accordance with Provincial standards.

Commercial hydro development is not permitted within the boundaries of Lake Nipigon Provincial Park, Kabitotikwia River, Livingstone Point, West Bay Provincial Park, and Windigo Bay Provincial Nature Reserves.

8.1.3 Vegetation

Management of vegetation within parks will be directed towards the maintenance of an evolving natural succession of communities.

Commercial timber harvesting is prohibited within these parks.

Infestations of forest insects and diseases will be monitored and assessed, where feasible. Non-native species will be controlled, and native species may be controlled. If control measures are undertaken, they will be applied to minimize effects on the general park environment. Biological controls will be used wherever possible.

The removal of hazardous trees will be permitted in all zones where safety is a concern (e.g. trails and access points). Areas experiencing adverse impacts will be rehabilitated whenever possible using plant species native to the park.

Brushing and ditching along approved roads may be permitted to improve sight lines and/or traffic flow.

Herbicide applications will be discouraged for vegetation management.

Development that necessitates the removal of vegetation will be supported by a vegetation inventory in accordance with an approved site plan.

8.1.4 Fire

Fires within these five provincial parks will be managed to protect park visitors and prevent socio-economic disruption. The ecological role of fire as an agent of disturbance for the maintenance of ecosystems and critical habitat will be promoted. Fire management will promote a "naturalness" objective to approximate a natural forest and wildlife habitat condition. Fires will be managed to minimize the loss or damage to provincial park property, infrastructure and structures. Prescribed fires will be managed to minimize impacts on adjacent land users and communities through proper planning and sound decision-making.

Light on the Land fire suppression techniques is the preferred option when protecting sensitive features. All fires that threaten park visitor safety or park infrastructure will receive Full Response and sustained action until extinguished. In the absence of an approved Fire Management Plan or Interim Fire Response Strategy for these parks, fires on the mainland will generally receive a Full Response and Sustained Action until extinguished or a Modified Response could occur after consultation between the Park Superintendent and the Fire

Executive Officer. Fires on islands will generally receive a Monitored Response. The use of Suppression Action requires the approval of a Fire Assessment Report (FAR).

Fires that enhance caribou wintering habitat in Livingstone Point and Windigo Bay Provincial Nature Reserves will receive a Modified and/or Monitored Response, subject to consultation with the Park Superintendent. Prescribed burning may be used to meet ecosystem management objectives in the nature reserve zones within the four nature reserve parks, including enhancing caribou wintering habitat in Livingstone Point and Windigo Bay Provincial Nature Reserves.

8.1.5 Wildlife

The management of wildlife, including species at risk, will be directed to the maintenance of an evolving natural succession. In certain cases, passive management (i.e. non-intervention) of species at risk and habitat will not guarantee the perpetuation of that species. If this is determined, then active management will be undertaken in the context of the broader management strategy for this species.

Hunting is prohibited in all five parks within this management plan. Status Indians having treaty rights to carry out traditional natural resource harvesting activities shall be permitted to carry on these activities in accordance with the terms of their treaty within their treaty area.

Nuisance animals will be trapped and removed under the supervision of, or directly by Ministry of Natural Resources staff. This control will be exercised as a last resort when it is essential for the protection of human health and safety, the health of animal species, or the protection of infrastructure.

At present, there is a small portion of trapline NG-86 contained within Livingstone Point Provincial Nature Reserve. The trapline NG-27 entirely contains West Bay Provincial Nature Reserve. Kabitotikwia River is wholly contained within Trapline NG-21. There are two traplines (NG-29 and NG-50) located within Windigo Bay. Trapline NG-108 encompasses Lake Nipigon Provincial Park. There are no trapline cabins located within any of these park boundaries. Licensed commercial trapping will be allowed to continue only for Status Indians enjoying treaty rights. Otherwise it will be phased out by January 1, 2010 or when the trapline is surrendered through normal processes. If a licence is revoked, surrendered, or an application for transfer is received prior to that date, all portions of the registered trapline within the park will be rescinded from the trapline's legal descriptions. Trapline cabins will not be permitted within the parks. New commercial trapping is prohibited within these five provincial parks. Snowmobiles will be the only form of off-road transportation permitted in the parks, and only for the purpose of trapping or by members of Whitesand First Nation to access their healing lodge.

8.1.6 Fisheries

The Nipigon District Fisheries Management Plan identifies strategies for Lake Nipigon Provincial Park, as well as Kabitotikwia River, Livingstone Point, West Bay Provincial, and Windigo Bay Provincial Nature Reserves.

Management of the fisheries resource will strive to protect a healthy aquatic ecosystem, which is aimed at maintaining or enhancing a self-sufficient native-species fishery.

Sport fishing is permitted in the parks. All fishing activities will be subject to the policies and regulations of the *Ontario Fishing Regulations*. The Park Superintendent may restrict sport fishing at certain times and locations for the purposes of fisheries management and/or public safety.

Stocking and spawn collection is not permitted.

Existing commercial fishing on Lake Nipigon is permitted to continue within the boundary of Lake Nipigon Provincial Park and in the waters adjacent to the nature reserves.

Status Indians having treaty rights to carry out traditional natural resource harvesting activities shall be permitted to carry on these activities in accordance with the terms of their treaty within their treaty area.

8.2 Cultural Resources

All five provincial parks are within the boundaries of lands covered under the

Robinson-Superior 1850 Treaty. Windigo Bay Provincial Nature Reserve surrounds the site of "Old Whitesand". This site has historical, traditional and spiritual significance to Whitesand First Nation, who have continued to use it for these purposes. Members of Whitesand First Nation recently built a healing lodge there in recognition of the site's significance. Appropriate tenure for the purpose of maintaining the healing lodge will be granted by MNR to Whitesand First Nation.

Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek is located on the southeast shore of Lake Nipigon. Members of this community travel on the lake, actively hunting and fishing for subsistence, as well as commercial fishing. Gull Bay First Nation is located on the west shore of Lake Nipigon, just north of Kabitotikwia River Provincial Nature Reserve. Members of the community rely on the lake for subsistence and have commercial fishing licences on Lake Nipigon.

Sand Point First Nation is currently negotiating their land base with the Government of Canada, but are exploring commercial and residential opportunities on the land between Lake Nipigon Provincial Park and Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek. There are plans to develop the Copper Thunderbird resort on the Sand Point First Nation reserve. This ecotourism and cultural awareness centre will provide employment and income to the reserve and its residents. A trail from the lodge to the Thunderbird Lookout is being proposed in Lake Nipigon Provincial Park. Members of Lake Nipigon Ojibway are also currently negotiating with the Government of Canada to establish a land base for their reserve. The site being discussed for the reserve is located east of the Lake Nipigon Basin Signature Site. Members of the community currently use the lake and may develop economic opportunities nearby. Red Rock First Nation is located on Lake Helen, immediately adjacent to the signature site. Poplar Point Ojibway and Poplar Point are communities of people currently seeking First Nation status. They have interests in and around Lake Nipigon. Ontario Parks understands that all First Nations within the signature site have traditional interests in the park(s) close to their communities. Ontario Parks will continue to work with First Nation groups to document and protect cultural resources in the park. There are no formal land claims regarding any of these five parks at this time.

The focus of cultural/heritage representation in Ontario Parks is the protection of significant landscape-related cultural resources. Cultural resources will be managed to ensure their protection, and to provide opportunities for heritage appreciation and research where these activities do not impair the resource. This will be achieved through zoning and by controlling any recreational activities, development and research that may occur in these areas.

Ontario Parks will continue to work with the Ministry of Culture in the inventory, protection and maintenance of archaeological and historic sites. If deemed appropriate for the protection and preservation of cultural resources, such inventory may include excavation of archaeological sites. Excavation by authorized licensed personnel with appropriate research permits will be conducted under the approval and supervision of the above Ministries. Upon completion of an excavation, the site or portions of the site will be returned to the extent possible to their original condition, or will be developed for the purposes of interpreting the cultural resources of the site. The type and extent of such development will be determined by the findings from the excavation.

Periodic inspection of significant sites will occur with protective controls established as required. The removal of artifacts or destruction of historical features is illegal and prohibited. Additional significant archaeological discoveries may necessitate alterations to future development plans and/or park zoning.

9.0 OPERATIONAL POLICIES

Lake Nipigon Provincial Park, as well as Kabitotikwia River, Livingstone Point, West Bay and Windigo Bay Provincial Nature Reserves are non-operating parks.

9.1 Natural Heritage Education

Because of the remote nature of these five parks and the relatively few number of people who visit the parks annually, the five parks in and around

Lake Nipigon offer a self-use level of programming.

Natural Heritage Education programming will be limited to an information contained in brochure(s) and on the Ontario Parks website.

9.1.1 Park Information
A public information program will be offered (primarily the Ontario Parks website). It will provide visitors with information about the park and its resources, environment and facilities. This information will emphasize the visitor's role in maintaining the natural environment of the park, appropriate behaviour in the park, and public safety. Park literature will also advise visitors about commercial services and attractions in the local area and other provincial parks.

Subject to available resources, park maps will be prepared. The park maps and brochures enable visitors to safely explore and use the park. A "respect the environment" ethic is promoted in order to minimize human impact on the park environment.

9.1.2 Interpretation
Interpretive programs and facilities provide park visitors with a greater understanding of the natural and cultural features. Printed material, self-use facilities and informal personal contact will be the primary means of interpretation. The parks' primary interpretive themes relate to geology and how this geology has affected cultural activities. The areas represent several period themes such as Fur Trade; Indigenous Settlers, Traders and Potters; and Northern Hunters and Fishers, as well as the parks' life and earth science features. Innovative ways of cooperative portrayal of these themes will be pursued with other agencies or partners.

9.1.3 Recreation
Basic recreation information provided on the park map will acquaint visitors with the attributes of the park.

9.2 Recreation Management
Recreation management provides a variety of recreational opportunities while aspiring to minimize negative environmental impacts in recognition of the park's significant landscape. Recreational activities that are incompatible with the park goal or with specific zones are prohibited or restricted. Prevention and control of such activities will be achieved through education and enforcement of park visitors concerning appropriate uses in the park in general and within specific zones (Figure 3 and Table 1). Low intensity recreation compatible with park values will be encouraged.

9.2.1 Kabitotikwia River
The park will be promoted as a paddling and sport fishing area where high potential exists for viewing waterfowl and wildlife.

9.2.2 Thunderbird Lookout
Low intensity recreation will be confined to the trail within the park. The Thunderbird Lookout Trail may be upgraded to allow visitors from the proposed Copper Thunderbird resort to access the scenic lookout. Trail development must follow an approved site plan.

9.2.3 Greater Park Ecosystem
Within the context of the greater park ecosystem, it is important to consider the ecological, social and economic relationships that these parks have with the surrounding area. Social and economic links include the local towns and First Nation communities whose residents and businesses either visit the park and/or utilize the park as an anchor or draw for recreation activities and business opportunities. The First Nation communities around Lake Nipigon use the area for spiritual, cultural, commercial and subsistence opportunities.

9.3 Research
Ontario Parks' research and information needs relate directly to the Ministry of Natural Resources' mandate and the provincial parks' goal and objectives. Park-based research needs to address the wide range of environmental, social and economic factors necessary to administer an ecologically sustainable system of parks. It is also important that research activities address the demand for good quality outdoor recreation experiences and customer satisfaction.

Research information needs are diverse. They cover the full spectrum of geological, biological, ecological, cultural, recreational and social sciences.

Scientific research and monitoring by qualified groups and individuals which contributes to the

knowledge, inventory and identification of natural and cultural features and to environmental and recreational management objectives will be encouraged where appropriate. Subjects of particular interest include archaeology, geomorphology and geology, as well as earth and life science studies.

All research programs must be compatible with the park's goal, objectives and zoning prescriptions. Research projects require prior approval and must be conducted in accordance with MNR policy concerning research in provincial parks. Research must also meet all other applicable provincial requirements. Park staff at the zone office will monitor these research programs. Any archaeological research will also require approval and monitoring by the Ministry of Culture. Should provincially or nationally significant features/resources be found, the management plan may be amended to ensure that protection will be provided through appropriate zoning or revision of plan policies.

Research will continue to monitor the effects of the access road through Windigo Bay on park values, including caribou, plant populations and water quality for fish.

Research to determine the importance of the pelican nesting colony on islands adjacent to Windigo Bay Provincial Nature Reserve will be completed. This study will determine if the islands should be included in the park.

Wildlife facilities and infrastructure may be permitted for scientific research of woodland caribou, if approved by the Park Superintendent.

10.0 DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

Development policies identify priorities for new development as well as redevelopment of existing facilities. Development is implemented through business and work program planning, based on priority and subject to the availability of human and financial resources, and in accordance with approved site and development plans that detail the location, type and extent of the development permitted.

Ontario Parks will:

- Work in conjunction with the Ministry of Culture to conduct archaeological site assessments in any area of the proposed development. Should sites be known or discovered to exist in an area, inventory of the site(s) will occur; and
- Undertake earth and life science inventories so that development impacts can be mitigated.

No development will take place in nature reserve zones except for necessary signs, trails and facilities that mitigate human impacts.

10.1 Roads and Trails

Maintenance of existing roads in access zones will be permitted. All other roads will be decommissioned or allowed to naturally abandon. No new roads will be permitted within these five parks, with the exception of possible upgrading to the existing Thunderbird Lookout trail (Lake Nipigon Provincial Park, Access Zone 3) to a road.

The construction of new trails as described in this plan will be subject to approved site plans.

EXISTING PARK DEVELOPMENT

LAKE NIPIGON PROVINCIAL PARK

Scale = 1:50,000

Ontario

Waterbody
Wetland
River / Stream, Intermittent
River / Stream, Permanent
Dam
Falls

Primary Road
Secondary Road
Tertiary Road
Unknown Road Type
Railway
Bridge
Trail / Canoe Route

Hydro / Transmission Line
Pipeline
Trap Cabin
Access Point
Campsite
Beach
Building(s)

Lake Nipigon Park Boundary
Provincial Park
First Nations
Natural Environment Zone
Access Zone (may coincide with road)

Ontario

This map is illustrative only.
Do not rely on it as being a precise indicator of routes, locations of features, nor as a guide to navigation.
Projection: UTM Grid Zone 16
Datum: North American Datum 1983
Base Derived from: NRVIS (Natural Resource Values Information System)
Produced by: The Provincial Geomatics Service Centre

LAKE NIPIGON

LAKE NIPIGON PROVINCIAL PARK

Thunderbird Lookout

SAND POINT FIRST NATION

The Devils Elbow

Fairloch

Pantawabik Bay

Farlinger

Kikenny

EXISTING PARK DEVELOPMENT

KABITOTIKWIA RIVER PROVINCIAL NATURE RESERVE

Scale = 1:100,000

Ontario

Waterbody
Wetland
River / Stream, Intermittent
River / Stream, Permanent
Dam
Falls
Primary Road
Secondary Road
Tertiary Road
Unknown Road Type
Railway
Bridge
Trail / Canoe Route
Hydro / Transmission Line
Pipeline
Trap Cabin
Access Point
Campsite
Beach
Building(s)
Kabitotikwia River Park Boundary
Provincial Park
First Nations
Nature Reserve Zone

Ontario Published September 2002
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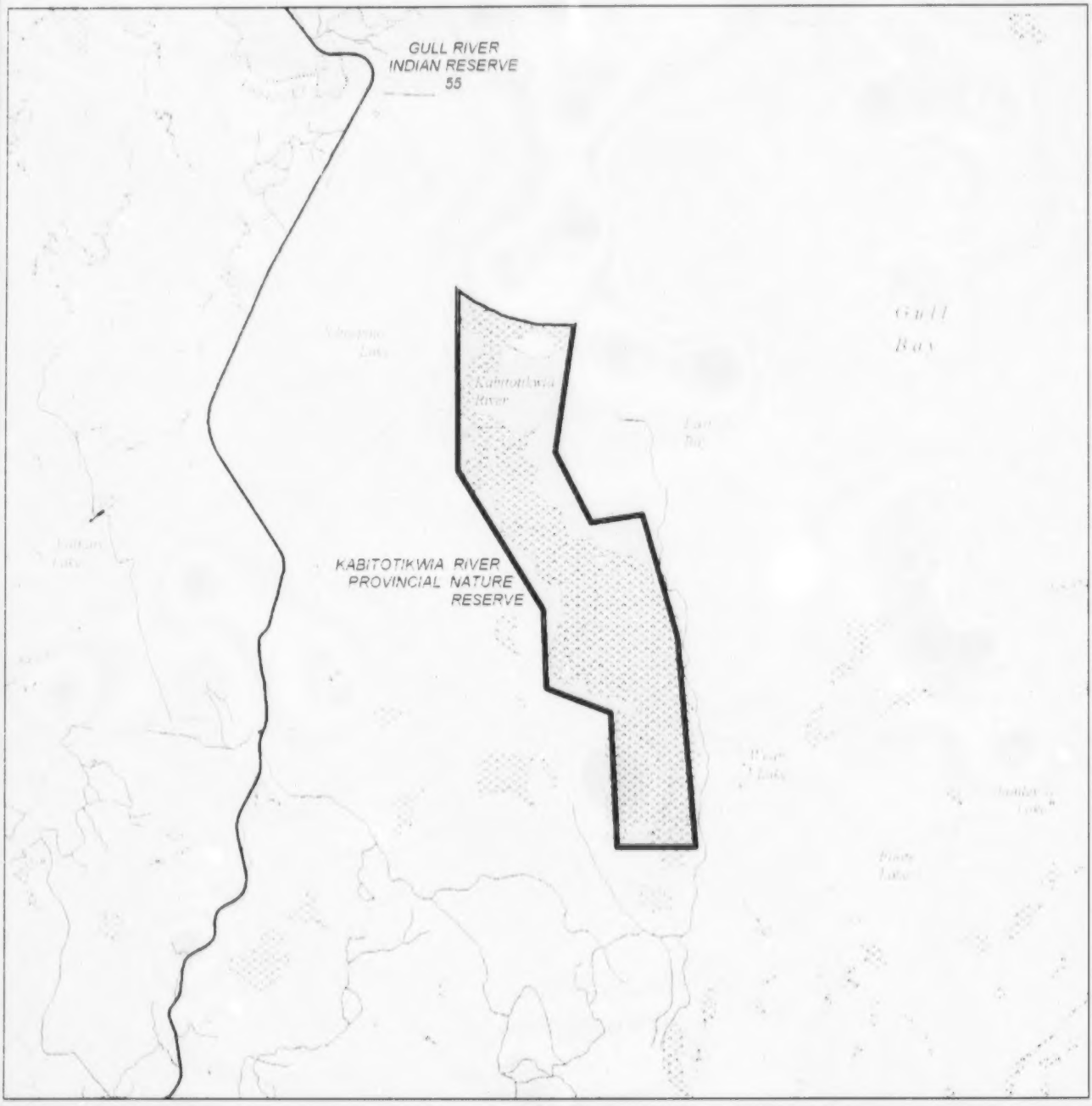
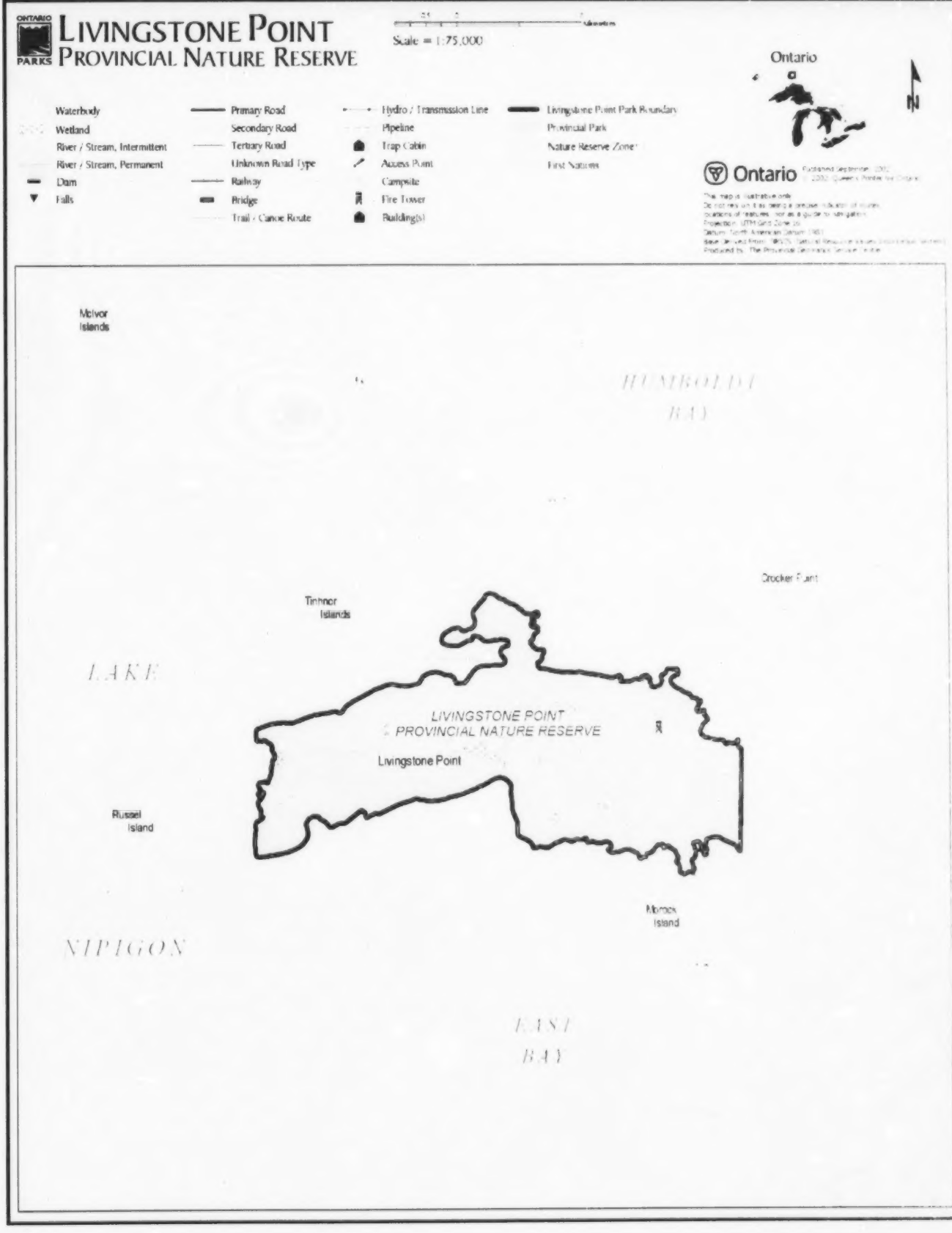


EXISTING PARK DEVELOPMENT



EXISTING PARK DEVELOPMENT

WINDIGO BAY PROVINCIAL NATURE RESERVE

Scale = 1:125,000

Ontario

Waterbody
Wetland
River / Stream, Intermittent
River / Stream, Permanent
Dam
Falls
Primary Road
Secondary Road
Tertiary Road
Unknown Road Type
Railway
Bridge
Trail / Canoe Route
Hydro / Transmission Line
Pipeline
Trap Cabin
Access Point
Campsite
Beach
Building(s)
Windigo Bay Park Boundary
Provincial Park
First Nations
Access Zone (existing road corridor)
Nature Reserve Zone

Ontario

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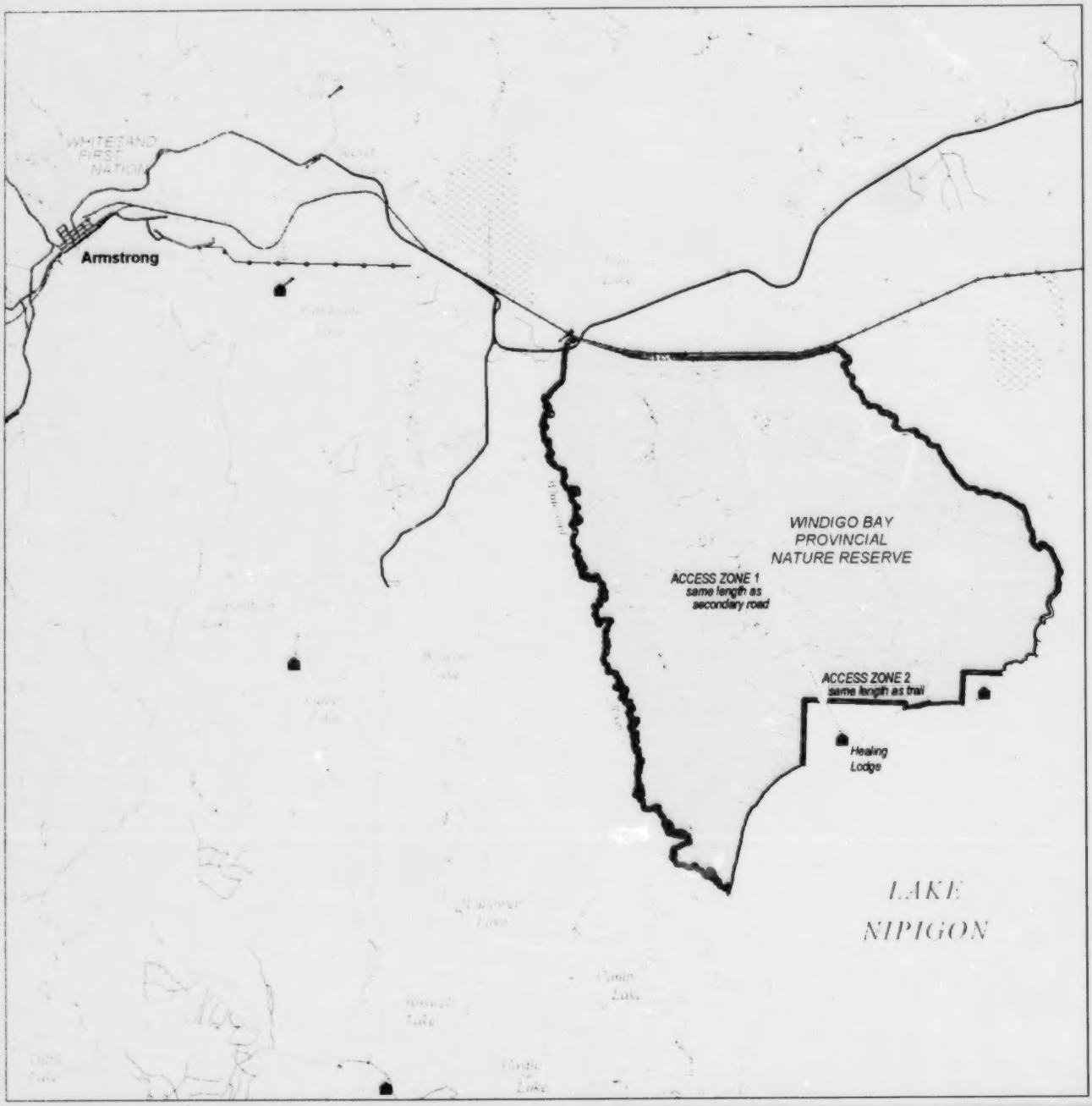
WHITESAND FIRST NATION
Armstrong
WINDIGO BAY PROVINCIAL NATURE RESERVE
ACCESS ZONE 1 same length as secondary road
ACCESS ZONE 2 same length as trail
Healing Lodge
LAKE NIPIGON

EXISTING PARK DEVELOPMENT

ONTARIO PARKS

WEST BAY
PROVINCIAL NATURE RESERVE

Scale = 1:75,000

Ontario

N

- Waterbody
- Wetland
- River / Stream, Intermittent
- River / Stream, Permanent
- Dam
- Falls
- Primary Road
- Secondary Road
- Tertiary Road
- Unknown Road Type
- Railway
- Bridge
- Trail / Canoe Route
- Hydro / Transmission Line
- Pipeline
- Trap Cabin
- Access Point
- Campsite
- Beach
- Building(s)
- West Bay Park Boundary
- Provincial Park
- First Nations
- Nature Reserve Zone

Ontario

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English Bay

English Point

WEST BAY PROVINCIAL NATURE RESERVE

Rocking Chair Point

West Bay

Boles Island

LAKE NIPIGON

PARK ZONING

LAKE NIPIGON PROVINCIAL PARK

Scale = 1:50,000

Ontario

- Waterbody
- Wetland
- River / Stream, Intermittent
- River / Stream, Permanent
- Dam
- Falls
- Primary Road
- Secondary Road
- Tertiary Road
- Unknown Road Type
- Railway
- Bridge
- Trail / Canoe Route
- Hydro / Transmission Line
- Pipeline
- Trap Cabin
- Access Point
- Building(s)
- Lake Nipigon Park Boundary
- Provincial Park
- Recommended Conservation Reserve
- Enhanced Management Area
- First Nations
- Natural Environment Zone
- Access Zone (may coincide with road)

Ontario

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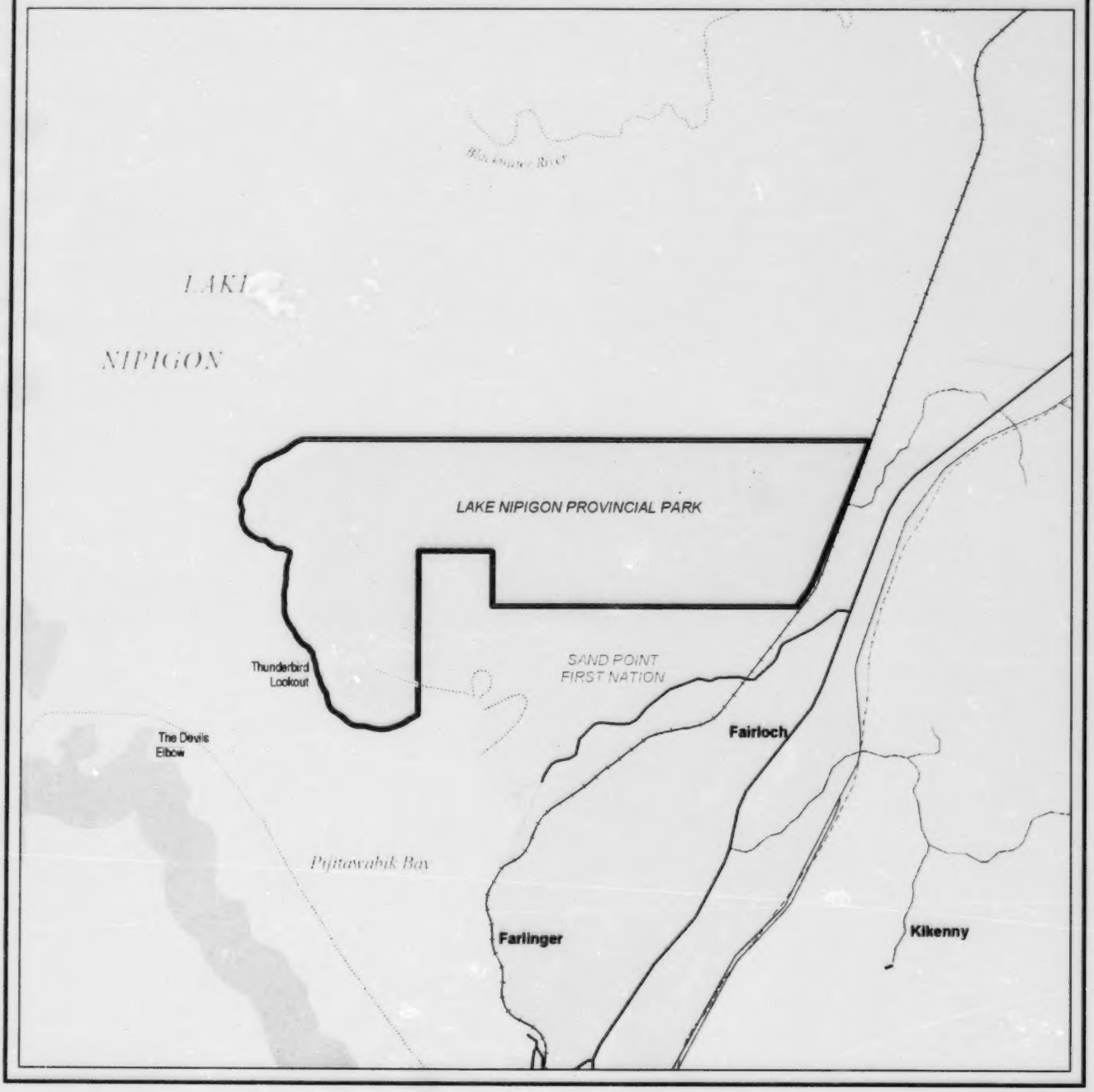

PARK ZONING

KABITOTIKWIA RIVER PROVINCIAL NATURE RESERVE

Scale = 1:100,000

Ontario

Waterbody
Wetland
River / Stream, Intermittent
River / Stream, Permanent
Dam
Falls

Primary Road
Secondary Road
Tertiary Road
Unknown Road Type
Railway
Bridge
Trail / Canoe Route

Hydro / Transmission Line
Pipeline
Trap Cabin
Access Point
Building(s)

Kabitotikwia River Park Boundary
Provincial Park
Recommended Conservation Reserve
Enhanced Management Area
Forest Reserve
First Nations
Nature Reserve Zone

Ontario

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GULL RIVER INDIAN RESERVE 55

KABITOTIKWIA RIVER PROVINCIAL NATURE RESERVE

Kabitotikwia River

Gull Bay

PARK ZONING

LIVINGSTONE POINT PROVINCIAL NATURE RESERVE

Scale = 1:75,000

Waterbody
Wetland
River / Stream, Intermittent
River / Stream, Permanent
Dam
Falls

Primary Road
Secondary Road
Tertiary Road
Unknown Road Type
Railway
Bridge
Trail / Canoe Route

Hydro / Transmission Line
Pipeline
Trap Cabin
Access Point
Building(s)

Livingstone Point Park Boundary
Provincial Park
Conservation Reserve
Enhanced Management Area
First Nations
Nature Reserve Zone

Ontario

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Produced by: The Provincial Geomatics Service Centre

PARK ZONING

WINDIGO BAY PROVINCIAL NATURE RESERVE

Scale = 1:125,000

Ontario

Waterbody
Wetland
River / Stream, Intermittent
River / Stream, Permanent
Dam
Falls
Primary Road
Secondary Road
Tertiary Road
Unknown Road Type
Railway
Bridge
Trail / Canoe Route
Hydro / Transmission Line
Pipeline
Trap Cabin
Access Point
Building(s)
Windigo Bay Park Boundary
Provincial Park
Conservation Reserve
Enhanced Management Area
First Nations
Access Zone (existing road corridor)
Nature Reserve Zone

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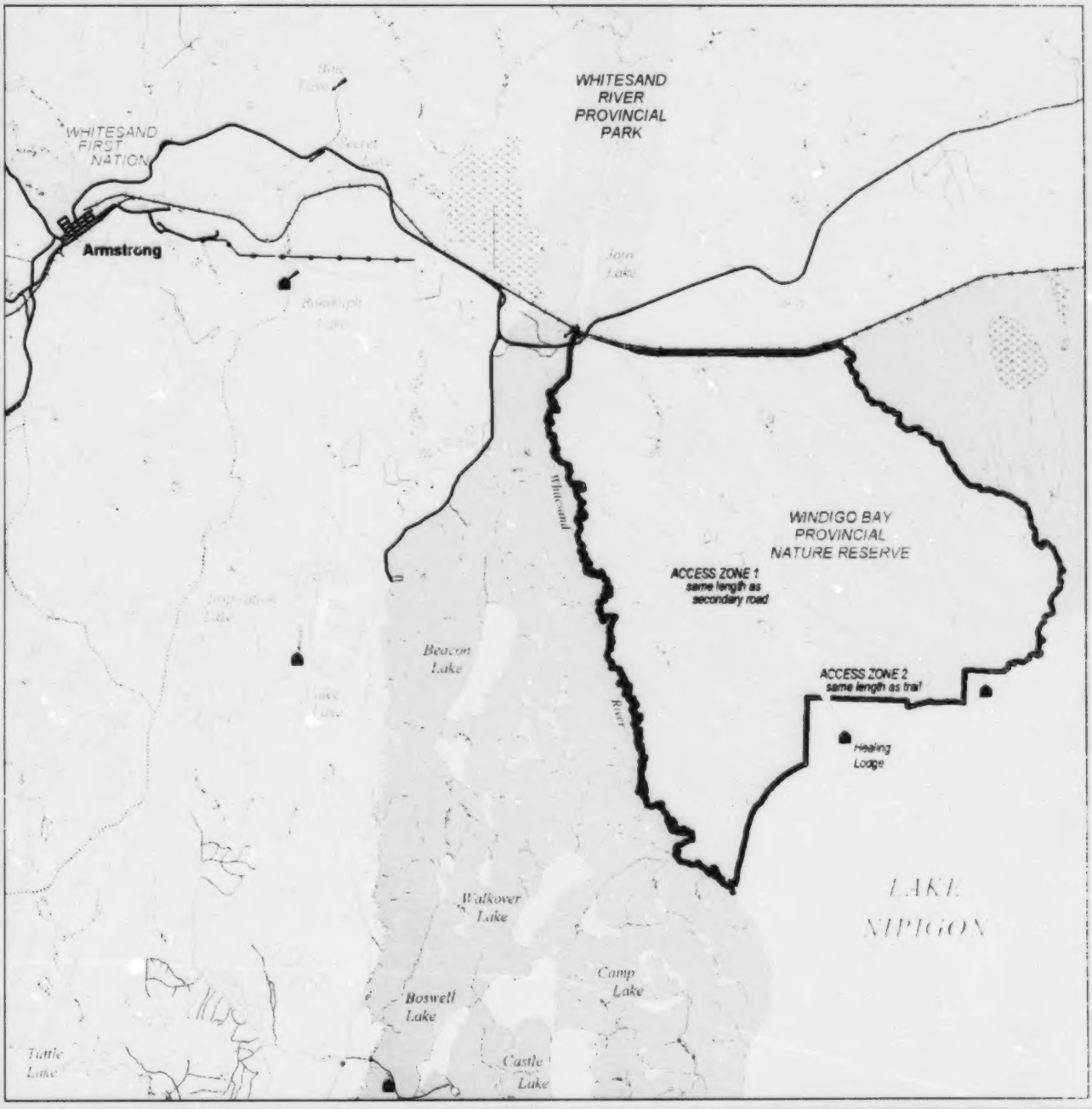

PARK ZONING

ONTARIO PARKS

WEST BAY PROVINCIAL NATURE RESERVE

Scale = 1:75,000

Ontario

Waterbody
Wetland
River / Stream, Intermittent
River / Stream, Permanent
Dam
Falls

Primary Road
Secondary Road
Tertiary Road
Unknown Road Type
Railway
Bridge
Trail / Canoe Route

Hydro / Transmission Line
Pipeline
Trap Cabin
Access Point
Building(s)

West Bay Park Boundary
Provincial Park
Recommended Conservation Reserve
Forest Reserve
Enhanced Management Area
First Nations
Nature Reserve Zone

Ontario

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Datum: North American Datum 1983
Base Derived From: MNR/IS (Natural Resource Values Information System)
Produced by: The Provincial Geomatics Service Centre

11.0 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

In the implementation of the approved park management plan, Ontario Parks may pursue opportunities for partnerships involving other agencies and groups. Park development, operations and resource stewardship will be contingent upon the availability of funding and unforeseeable changes in priority or policy. Funding may be derived from a variety of sources, including corporate sponsorships and donations. Implementation of the management plan and operation of the park will meet the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act, Provincial Parks Act* and other pertinent legislation.

Unless otherwise identified in this document, implementation priorities may be established in subsidiary operating and resource stewardship plans. Preparation of these plans will involve the appropriate level of public consultation.

A list of implementation priorities follows.

11.1 Resource Stewardship

- Install signs along Kabitotikwia River Provincial Nature Reserve boundary prohibiting motorboats;
- Research to monitor the effects of the access road through Windigo Bay on park values;
- Detailed earth science inventories of Kabitotikwia River, West Bay and Windigo Bay;
- Detailed life science inventories of Kabitotikwia River, Livingstone Point and West Bay;
- Prepare a fire management plan for Lake Nipigon, Kabitotikwia River, Livingstone Point, West Bay and Windigo Bay.
- Monitoring potential remote campsite locations for signs of use (i.e. West Bay); and
- Detailed cultural inventory of Kabitotikwia River, Livingstone Point, West Bay and Windigo Bay.

11.2 Development

- Preparation of park maps; and
- Evaluate improvements to Thunderbird Lookout Trail.

11.3 Project Screening

The *Environmental Assessment Act* requires that all park management activities conform to approved legislation, policy, procedures, guidelines and standards, including provision for public notice. The preparation of this park management plan constitutes the principal public review opportunity for activities and projects. Exceptions to this are projects where further study is required, or where a decision has been deferred to a subsidiary plan.

11.4 Plan Review and Amendment

The Lake Nipigon Basin Signature Site Park Management Parent Plan may be reviewed throughout its twenty-year life span, where warranted, to address issues or changing conditions.

A variety of monitoring programs will provide essential information concerning the effectiveness of approved policies. Such mechanisms as the collection of user statistics, periodic user surveys and park management audits will provide valuable information to ensure that policies remain current and relevant. Research findings and resource inventory work may aid in conducting plan reviews.

12.0 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Public consultation for the Lake Nipigon Basin Signature Site began in January, 2001 with the Invitation to Participate (OMNR 2001). This was followed by a series of open houses to present the background information in June, 2001. A stakeholders meeting to discuss management options and ideas was done in September, 2001. Another series of open houses were conducted to present the management options in December, 2001 and January, 2002. A variety of stakeholders, interest groups and individual members of the public have expressed an interest in the project including First Nations, anglers and hunters, cottagers, commercial fishermen, forestry, mining and utility companies, recreational, naturalist and environmental groups. Discussions have also been held with the Nipigon Watershed Advisory Committee and with Nipigon West, Nipigon East,

Spruce River and Armstrong Local Citizens Committees.

Input was received in the form of letters (20+), open house comment sheets (54), questionnaires (31), e-mails (10), briefs (3), proposals (1), data input and correction forms (9), as well as through numerous meetings and telephone calls. Approximately 240 people attended the June, 2001 Open Houses located in Nipigon, Beardmore, Armstrong and Thunder Bay. Approximately 245 people attended the December, 2001 Open Houses located in Nipigon, Beardmore, Armstrong, Thunder Bay and Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek.

The dominant themes in the comments are reflected in the content of this preliminary park management parent plan and include:

- Classification of Lake Nipigon Provincial Park;
- Motorized boats within Kabitotikwia River Provincial Nature Reserve; and
- Use restrictions on the road through Windigo Bay Provincial Nature Reserve.

A detailed summary of the input received in response to this preliminary park plan will be presented in the approved management plan.

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APPENDIX A

Table 2. Policy Report – Lake Nipigon Provincial Park

Activity	Permitted	Guidelines
Commercial Activities		
Aggregate Extraction:	No	Please see Section 8.1.1 for more information.
Bait Fishing (commercial):		
Existing:	No	Activity does not presently occur.
New:	No	
Commercial Fishing:		
Existing:	Yes	Activity does not occur within inland lakes in the park. The activity may occur as part of the commercial fishery on Lake Nipigon. Please see Section 8.1.6 for more information.
New:	No	
Commercial Fur Harvesting:		
Existing:	Yes	Existing use permitted to continue indefinitely. Please see Section 8.1.5 for more information.
New:	No	
Commercial Hydro Development:	No	New commercial development is not permitted. Please see Section 8.1.2 for more information.
Commercial Timber Harvest:	No	Commercial development is not permitted. Please see Section 8.1.3 for more information.
Commercial Tourism (e.g. outfitting services, outpost camps, resorts/lodges):		
Existing:	No	Activity does not presently occur. New commercial tourism associated with Copper Thunderbird may be permitted. Proposals will be reviewed through future planning.
New:	Maybe	
Energy Transmission and Communications Corridors (new):	No	These facilities should avoid park lands whenever possible.
Mineral Exploration and Development:	No	
Wild Rice Harvesting:		
Existing:	No	Activity does not presently occur.
New:	No	
Land and Resource Management Activities		
Crown Land Disposition:		
Private Use:	No	No land disposition for the private use of individuals is permitted.
Commercial Use:	Yes	Commercial disposition subject to decisions regarding commercial tourism determined through future planning.
Fire Suppression:	Yes	Please see Section 8.1.4 for more information.
Fish Habitat Management:	Yes	Please see Section 8.1.4 for more information.
Fish Stocking:		
Native Species:	No	Please see Section 8.1.6 for more information.
Non-native Species:	No	
Insect/disease	Yes	Please see Section 8.1.3 for more information.

Suppression:		
Inventory/Monitoring:	Yes	
Prescribed Burning:	Yes	Prescribed burning may be used to meet ecosystem management objectives in the nature reserve zones. Please see Section 8.1.4 for more information.
Roads (non-park use):		
Existing:	No	
New:	No	
Vegetation Management:	Yes	Please see Section 8.1.3 for more information.
Water Control Structure:		
Existing:	No	
New:	No	
Wildlife Population Management:	Yes	Please see Section 8.1.5 for more information
Science, Education and Heritage Appreciation		
Demonstration Areas:	No	
Historical Appreciation - self guided:	Yes	
Nature Appreciation - self guided:	Yes	
Photography and Painting:	Yes	
Research:	Yes	Subject to authorization.
Wildlife Viewing:	Yes	Limited to facilities (e.g. duck blinds) to be used for research.
Recreation Activities and Facilities		
Aircraft Landing (water):	No	
All Terrain Vehicle Use:		
On Trails:	No	
Off Trails:	No	
Camping:	Yes	Backcountry campsites only. Please see Section 7.2.1 for more information.
Horseback Riding (trail):	No	
Hunting:	No	
Mountain Bike Use:	No	
Motor Boat Use:		
Private:	Yes	Use of motorized boats is prohibited on any in land waters within Lake Nipigon Provincial Park. Motorized boats are allowed on Lake Nipigon, within the park boundary.
Commercial:	Yes	
Non-motorized Recreation Travel (canoeing, kayaking, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing):	Yes	
Private Recreation Camps (Hunt Camps):		
Existing:	No	
New:	No	
Rock Climbing:	No	
Sailing and Sailboarding:	Yes	Activity is permitted on Lake Nipigon only. Activity is prohibited on inland lakes.

Scuba and Skin Diving:	Yes	Activity is permitted on Lake Nipigon only. Activity is prohibited on inland lakes.
Snowmobiling:		
On Trails:	Yes	Snowmobile use is restricted to trappers accessing existing trapline trails for trapline NG-108.
Off Trails:	No	
Sport Fishing:	Yes	Consult the Ontario Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary for specific local details.
Trail Development:	Yes	Please see Section 10.1 and 7.2.1 for more information.

Note: The policies outlined in this table do not supersede any Aboriginal or treaty rights that may exist, or other legal obligations.

Table 3. Policy Report – Kabitotikwia River Provincial Nature Reserve

Activity	Permitted	Guidelines
Commercial Activities		
Aggregate Extraction:	No	Please see Section 8.1.1 for more information.
Bait Fishing (commercial):		
Existing:	Yes	Existing use to be phased out no later than January 1, 2010. Please see Section 8.1.6 for more information.
New:	No	
Commercial Fishing:		
Existing:	No	
New:	No	
Commercial Fur Harvesting:		
Existing:	Yes	Existing use to be phased out no later than January 1, 2010, except for trapping by Status Indians enjoying Treaty rights. Please see Section 8.1.5.
New:	No	
Commercial Hydro Development:	No	Please see Section 8.1.2 for more information.
Commercial Timber Harvest:	No	Please see Section 8.1.3 for more information.
Commercial Tourism (e.g. outfitting services, outpost camps, resorts/lodges):		
Existing:	No	
New:	No	
Energy Transmission and Communications Corridors (new):	No	These facilities should avoid park lands whenever possible.
Mineral Exploration and Development:	No	
Wild Rice Harvesting:		
Existing:	No	Activity does not presently occur.
New:	No	
Land and Resource Management Activities		
Crown Land Disposition:		
Private Use:	No	No land disposition for the private use of individuals is permitted. All existing tenure issued by the Crown for private use will be phased out no later than January 1, 2010.
Commercial Use:	No	
Fire Suppression:	Yes	Please see Section 8.1.4.
Fish Habitat Management:	Yes	Please see Section 8.1.2 and 8.1.6 for more information.
Fish Stocking:		
Native Species:	No	Please see Section 8.1.6 for more information.
Non-native Species:	No	
Insect/disease Suppression:	Yes	Please see Section 8.1.3 for more information.
Inventory/Monitoring:	Yes	
Prescribed Burning:	Yes	Prescribed burning may be used to meet ecosystem management objectives in the nature reserve zones. Please see Section 8.1.4 for

		more information.
Roads (non-park use):		
Existing:	No	
New:	No	
Vegetation Management:	Yes	Please see Section 8.1.3 for more information.
Water Control Structure:		
Existing:	No	
New:	No	
Wildlife Population Management:	Yes	Please see Section 8.1.5 for more information.
Science, Education and Heritage Appreciation		
Demonstration Areas:	No	
Historical Appreciation - self guided:	Yes	
Nature Appreciation - self guided:	Yes	
Photography and Painting:	Yes	
Research:	Yes	Subject to authorization
Wildlife Viewing:	Yes	
Recreation Activities and Facilities		
Aircraft Landing (water):	No	
All Terrain Vehicle Use:		
On Trails:	No	
Off Trails:	No	
Camping:	No	
Horseback Riding (trail):	No	
Hunting:	No	
Mountain Bike Use:	No	
Motor Boat Use:		
Private:	No	
Commercial:	No	
Non-motorized Recreation Travel (canoeing, kayaking, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing):	Yes	
Private Recreation Camps (Hunt Camps):		
Existing:	No	
New:	No	
Rock Climbing:	No	
Sailing and Sailboarding:	Yes	
Scuba and Skin Diving:	Yes	
Snowmobiling:		
On Trails:	Yes	Snowmobile use is restricted to trappers accessing existing trapline trails for trapline NG-21.
Off Trails:	No	

Sport Fishing:	Yes	Consult the Ontario Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary for specific local details.
Trail Development:	Yes	Please see Section 10.1.

Note: The policies outlined in this table do not supersede any Aboriginal or treaty rights that may exist, or other legal obligations.

Table 4. Policy Report – Livingstone Point Provincial Nature Reserve

Activity	Permitted	Guidelines
Commercial Activities		
Aggregate Extraction:	No	Please see Section 8.1.1 for more information.
Bait Fishing (commercial):		
Existing:	Yes	Existing use to be phased out no later than January 1, 2010. Please see Section 8.1.6 for more information.
New:	No	
Commercial Fishing:		
Existing:	No	Please see Section 8.1.6 for more information.
New:	No	
Commercial Fur Harvesting:		
Existing:	Yes	Existing use to be phased out no later than January 1, 2010, except for trapping by Status Indians enjoying Treaty rights. Please see Section 8.1.5 for more information.
New:	No	
Commercial Hydro Development:	No	
Commercial Timber Harvest:	No	
Commercial Tourism (e.g. outfitting services, outpost camps, resorts/lodges):		
Existing:	No	
New:	No	
Energy Transmission and Communications Corridors (new):	No	These facilities should avoid park lands whenever possible.
Mineral Exploration and Development:	No	
Wild Rice Harvesting:		
Existing:	No	
New:	No	
Land and Resource Management Activities		
Crown Land Disposition:		
Private Use:	No	No land disposition for the private use of individuals is permitted. All existing tenure issued by the Crown for private use will be phased out no later than January 1, 2010.
Commercial Use:	No	
Fire Suppression:	Yes	Please see Section 8.1.4.
Fish Habitat Management:	Yes	Please see Section 8.1.6 for more information.
Fish Stocking:		
Native Species:	No	
Non-native Species:	No	
Insect/disease Suppression:	Yes	Please see Section 8.1.3 for more information.
Inventory/Monitoring:	Yes	
Prescribed Burning:	Yes	Prescribed burning may be used to meet ecosystem management objectives in the nature reserve zones. Please see Section 8.1.4 for

		more information.
Roads (non-park use):		
Existing:	No	
New:	No	
Vegetation Management:	Yes	Please see Section 8.1.3.
Water Control Structure:		
Existing:	No	Please see Section 8.1.2.
New:	No	
Wildlife Population Management:	Yes	Please see Section 8.1.5.
Science, Education and Heritage Appreciation		
Demonstration Areas:	No	
Historical Appreciation - self guided:	Yes	
Nature Appreciation - self guided:	Yes	
Photography and Painting:	Yes	
Research:	Yes	Subject to authorization.
Wildlife Viewing:	Yes	
Recreation Activities and Facilities		
Aircraft Landing (water):	No	
All Terrain Vehicle Use:		
On Trails:	No	
Off Trails:	No	
Camping:	No	
Horseback Riding (trail):	No	
Hunting:	No	
Mountain Bike Use:	No	
Motor Boat Use:		
Private:	No	
Commercial:	No	
Non-motorized Recreation Travel (canoeing, kayaking, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing):	Yes	
Private Recreation Camps (Hunt Camps):		
Existing:	No	
New:	No	
Rock Climbing:	No	
Sailing and Sailboarding:	No	
Scuba and Skin Diving:	Yes	
Snowmobiling:		
On Trails:	Yes	Snowmobile use is restricted to trappers accessing existing trapline trails for trapline NG-86.
Off Trails:	No	

Sport Fishing:	Yes	Consult the Ontario Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary for specific local details.
Trail Development:	Yes	Please see Section 10.1.

Note: The policies outlined in this table do not supersede any Aboriginal or treaty rights that may exist, or other legal obligations.

Table 5. Policy Report – West Bay Provincial Nature Reserve

Activity	Permitted	Guidelines
Commercial Activities		
Aggregate Extraction:	No	Please see Section 8.1.1 for more information.
Bait Fishing (commercial):		
Existing:	No	
New:	No	
Commercial Fishing:		
Existing:	No	Please see Section 8.1.6 for more information.
New:	No	
Commercial Fur Harvesting:		
Existing:	Yes	Existing use to be phased out no later than January 1, 2010. Please see Section 8.1.5 for more information.
New:	No	
Commercial Hydro Development:	No	New commercial development is not permitted. Please see Section 8.1.2 for more information.
Commercial Timber Harvest:	No	Commercial development is not permitted. Please see Section 8.1.3 for more information.
Commercial Tourism (e.g. outfitting services, outpost camps, resorts/lodges):		
Existing:	No	
New:	No	
Energy Transmission and Communications Corridors (new):	No	These facilities should avoid park lands whenever possible.
Mineral Exploration and Development:	No	
Wild Rice Harvesting:		
Existing:	Yes	Existing use to be phased out no later than January 1, 2010, except for trapping by Status Indians enjoying Treaty rights.
New:	No	
Land and Resource Management Activities		
Crown Land Disposition:		
Private Use:	No	No land disposition for the private use of individuals is permitted. All existing tenure issued by the Crown for private use will be phased out no later than January 1, 2010.
Commercial Use:	No	
Fire Suppression:	Yes	Please see Section 8.1.4.
Fish Habitat Management:	Yes	Please see Section 8.1.6 for more information.
Fish Stocking:		
Native Species:	No	
Non-native Species:	No	
Insect/disease Suppression:	Yes	Please see Section 8.1.3.
Inventory/Monitoring:	Yes	
Personal use permits for wood harvesting:	Yes	

Prescribed Burning:	Yes	Prescribed burning may be used to meet ecosystem management objectives in the nature reserve zones. Please see Section 8.1.4 for more information.
Roads (non-park use):		
Existing:	No	
New:	No	
Vegetation Management:	Yes	Please see Section 8.1.3.
Water Control Structure:		
Existing:	No	Please see Section 8.1.2.
New:	No	
Wildlife Population Management:	Yes	Please see Section 8.1.5.
Science, Education and Heritage Appreciation		
Demonstration Areas:	No	
Historical Appreciation - self guided:	Yes	
Nature Appreciation - self guided:	Yes	
Photography and Painting:	Yes	
Research:	Yes	Subject to authorization.
Wildlife Viewing:	Yes	
Recreation Activities and Facilities		
Aircraft Landing (water):	No	
All Terrain Vehicle Use:		
On Trails:	No	
Off Trails:	No	
Camping:	No	
Horseback Riding (trail):	No	
Hunting:	No	
Mountain Bike Use:	No	
Motor Boat Use:		
Private:	No	
Commercial:	No	
Non-motorized Recreation Travel (canoeing, kayaking, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing):	Yes	
Private Recreation Camps (Hunt Camps):		
Existing:	No	
New:	No	
Rock Climbing:	No	
Sailing and Sailboarding:	No	
Scuba and Skin Diving:	No	
Snowmobiling:		
On Trails:	Yes	Snowmobile use is restricted to trappers accessing existing trapline

Off Trails:	No	trails for trapline NG-27.
Sport Fishing:	Yes	Consult the Ontario Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary for specific local details.
Trail Development:	Yes	Please see Section 10.1.

Note: The policies outlined in this table do not supersede any Aboriginal or treaty rights that may exist, or other legal obligations.

Table 6. Policy Report – Windigo Bay Provincial Nature Reserve

Activity	Permitted	Guidelines
Commercial Activities		
Aggregate Extraction:	No	Please see Section 8.1.1 for more information.
Bait Fishing (commercial):		
Existing:	Yes	Existing use to be phased out no later than January 1, 2010.
New:	No	
Commercial Fishing:		
Existing:	No	
New:	No	
Commercial Fur Harvesting:		
Existing:	Yes	Existing use to be phased out no later than January 1, 2010, except for trapping by Status Indians enjoying Treaty rights.
New:	No	
Commercial Hydro Development:	No	
Commercial Timber Harvest:	No	
Commercial Tourism (e.g. outfitting services, outpost camps, resorts/lodges):		
Existing:	No	
New:	No	
Energy Transmission and Communications Corridors (new):	No	These facilities should avoid park lands whenever possible.
Mineral Exploration and Development:	No	
Wild Rice Harvesting:		
Existing:	No	
New:	No	
Land and Resource Management Activities		
Crown Land Disposition:		
Private Use:	No	No land disposition for the private use of individuals is permitted. All existing tenure issued by the Crown for private use will be phased out no later than January 1, 2010.
Commercial Use:	No	
Fire Suppression:	Yes	Please see Section 8.1.4.
Fish Habitat Management:	Yes	Please see Section 8.1.6.
Fish Stocking:		
Native Species:	No	Please see Section 8.1.6.
Non-native Species:	No	
Insect/disease Suppression:	Yes	Non-native species will be controlled, and native species may be controlled. Please see section 8.1.3 for more information.
Inventory/Monitoring:	Yes	
Prescribed Burning:	Yes	Prescribed burning may be used to meet ecosystem management objectives in the nature reserve zones, including enhancing caribou wintering habitat.

Roads (non-park use):		
Existing:	Yes	The existing road to access the healing lodge is permitted, subject to the terms and conditions outlined in section 7.1.1 and 7.1.2.
New:	No	No new roads may be constructed in the park.
Vegetation Management:	Yes	Please see section 8.1.3 for more information.
Water Control Structure:		
Existing:	No	
New:	No	
Wildlife Population Management:	Yes	
Science, Education and Heritage Appreciation		
Demonstration Areas:	No	
Historical Appreciation - self guided:	Yes	
Photography and Painting:	Yes	
Research:	Yes	Subject to authorization.
Wildlife Viewing:	Yes	Limited to facilities (e.g. duck blinds) to be used for research.
Recreation Activities and Facilities		
Aircraft Landing (water):	No	
All Terrain Vehicle Use:		
On Trails:	Yes	Existing all terrain vehicle use by Whitesand First Nation members accessing the Healing Lodge on the authorized trail and road can continue, subject to management prescriptions outlined in Section 7.1.1 and 7.1.2.
Off Trails:	No	
Camping:	No	
Horseback Riding (trail):	No	
Hunting:	No	
Mountain Bike Use:	No	
Motor Boat Use:		
Private:	Yes	The use of motorized boats will be limited to Whitesand First Nation members accessing the Healing Lodge.
Commercial:	No	
Non-motorized Recreation Travel (canoeing, kayaking, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing):	Yes	
Private Recreation Camps (Hunt Camps):		
Existing:	No	
New:	No	
Rock Climbing:	No	
Sailing and Sailboarding:	No	
Scuba and Skin Diving:	No	
Snowmobiling:		
On Trails:	Yes	On-trail snowmobile use is limited to Whitesand First Nation members accessing the Healing Lodge on the authorized trail and road, subject to management prescriptions outlined in Sections 7.1.1 and 7.1.2. Snowmobile use is also is also permitted for Whitesand First Nation members accessing traplines NG-29 and NG-50.
Off Trails:	No	

Sport Fishing:	Yes	Consult the Ontario Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary for specific local details.
Trail Development:	Yes	Please see Section 7.1.2. and 10.1 for more information.

Note: The policies outlined in this table do not supersede any Aboriginal or treaty rights that may exist, or other legal obligations.